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ARBOR DAY

IN COMMEMORATION OF
OUR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS
WHOSE LIVES HAVE
BEEN GIVEN FOR THEIR COUNTRY
AND FOR HUMANITY
IN THE GREAT WAR

ARBOR · DAY · 1919

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON

THE OBSERVANCE of Arbor Day began soon after the Civil War. A distinguished citizen of Nebraska, who later became Secretary of Agriculture, was the prime mover in securing its recognition within his State, where it first took root; and the Board of Agriculture of that State, on his motion, designated the first Arbor Day. From the beginning it has had a civic motive and an association of patriotism.

Another and greater war has come to its inevitable conclusion. The cause of righteousness, of liberty, of all that Americans hold dear has prevailed. We shall seek many ways to perpetuate the memory of those who made the great sacrifice. The memorials will take many forms. The names of those who have fallen will be perpetuated by costly monuments and inscribed on enduring tablets. Great works that serve the needs of peace also will be dedicated to them.

But along with these memorials we can easily discover ways in which we may simply and spontaneously pay our tribute to them. We can keep fresh our memory of what they gave; and we can perpetuate their names in familiar places. It has been happily suggested that we may do this by adorning with young trees, each named for a fallen soldier, our waysides, our yards, and our pleasure places. And in most of our States Arbor Day is at hand. This year we may give to that day a meaning more profound, a purpose more exalted, yet also an association more personal.

I conceive that, if the origin of the day be borne in mind, the invitation to our fellow citizens to join in making it a day "especially set apart and consecrated for tree planting" may appropriately come from this Department. I take the liberty, therefore, of suggesting such an observance of Arbor Day as will secure a widespread planting of trees, dedicated to those whose lives have been sacrificed in the great struggle to preserve American rights and the civilization of the world.

D. F. HOUSTON,
Secretary.

